

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA

MEMORANDUM

February 23, 1978

TO: Dr. Barbara Z. Siegel, Chairperson
Manoa Faculty Senate Executive Committee

Dr. Michael Shapiro, Chairperson
College of Arts and Sciences Senate

FROM: Gary Okuda, Convenor
Ethnic Studies Advisory Committee

SUBJECT: A Periodic Progress Report to the UH Faculty

In 1977, two faculty committees of the University of Hawaii laid the foundation for the establishment of the Ethnic Studies Program (ESP) on a firm basis after years of controversy and confrontation involving ethnic studies here. Recommendations of the Manoa Faculty Senate, Program and Curriculum Planning Committee (April 25, 1977), and the College of Arts and Sciences, Educational Policy and Planning Committee (May 1, 1977), formed the basis for President Matsuda's presentation to the Committee on Academic Affairs of the Board of Regents May 18, 1977. In the course of that presentation, the President recommended that "... the provisional status [of ESP] be terminated and that the Ethnic Studies Program be made a regular program subject to the Board of Regents' policy on review of new and established programs." This change from "provisional" to "permanent" status has the effect of giving ESP five years (until the next general program review, 1981-82) to correct deficiencies and to attain a level of quality which will assure its continuity.

Among other recommendations of both faculty review bodies was the establishment of an Ethnic Studies Advisory Committee (ESAC) consisting of tenured faculty, a graduate student, and an ASUH representative. Now, after being in existence for more than one semester (including a good part of the preceding spring and summer), ESAC is moved to report to its faculty colleagues on progress within the Program, to share with the UH faculty certain persistent problems and some new problems, and, in general, to obtain reaffirmation of the faculty mandate under which the, now "permanent," ESP

and the ESAC itself were created. In addition, the ESAC seeks avenues to upgrade the Ethnic Studies Program, including cooperation with other departments to make joint tenure-track appointments.

Five years would seem an adequate period in which to achieve a condition of quality such as to assure continuity of the ESP, provided a climate of adequate support exists, and in the course of the present academic year, there has been substantial progress toward this quality. This includes:

a. An Interim Director of Quality.

Appointment of interim director, Dr. Miriam Sharma, who has established a position of confidence with the Program staff and students and with ESAC;

b. Quality in Instructional Staff.

Appointments of four highly qualified instructors (Dr. Allen Huemer, Gregory Mark, Dr. Miriam Sharma, and Alvin Yanagisako).

c. Upgrading of Present Faculty.

Assurance of the continual upgrading of continuing ESP faculty (Dean Alegado, Marion Kelly, Noel Kent, and Davianna McGregor-Alegado) including progress towards degrees and publications;

d. Course Development.

Addition of two new courses--one of which is permanent;

e. Oral History.

Continuing review and improvement of the State-funded Oral History Project;

f. Colloquium Series.

Initiation of a colloquium series to provide further interaction of the Program with the UH community;

g. Cross-Listing of Courses in Departments.

Initiation of selective cross-listing of courses (i.e., History 495U, Hawaiian Labor History);

h. Goal Development.

Endorsement of a statement of ESP goals by ESAC, drawn up in conjunction with the Program.

i. Search for Permanent Director.

The Ethnic Studies Advisory Committee, in addition, is currently searching for a permanent director, which should go far to provide programmatic continuity over the next several years. To this end, an advertisement was placed nationally, and over fifty applications received. The ESAC is now planning to interview the top applicants.

j. Remaining Tasks.

Progress toward meeting all of the recommendations of the faculty review committees has been slow, notwithstanding the accomplishments of the past semester. In particular, ESAC has not yet had time to take up the matters of the participation of undergraduate student lab leaders and grading practices in depth. Lack of progress on these important matters is regrettable, of course. However, ESAC has sought to proceed in its relationship to ESP not as a trustee body, but as a group of faculty and student colleagues intent upon being as helpful to, and supportive of, the Program as possible while yet moving to meet the mandated recommendations of faculty review committees.

k. Administrative Concerns.

It has come to be the view of ESAC that a major problem with respect to ESP, and the changes it must undergo, is the UH administration. This was recognized as the major stumbling block in the EPPC review as well. Without a fundamental change in the older posture of hostility of the administration toward the Program, it is unreasonable to expect rapid improvement. Recent actions of the administration have had two deleterious effects upon the tempo of changes in the Program. One is that an inordinate portion of the time of the interim director, the Program staff, and ESAC has been taken up with the resolution of administrative problems which, in our judgment, have been the result of administrative ineptitude, perhaps harassment, in the College and in Manoa Chancellor's office. These problems have pertained to contract renewals and appointments requiring the cooperation of the College and Chancellor's office, failure to list course offerings of the Program to the detriment of enrollments, and the long and utterly unnecessary delay in fulfilling salary obligations to the interim director.

The second consequence of recent UH administrative actions has been to heighten, rather than to reduce,

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the atmosphere of unease and suspicion of the Program staff, students, and even some community spokesmen, regarding the sincerity of the UH commitment to Ethnic Studies. It is a matter of considerable importance to allay such quite understandable suspicions and to replace them with a basic confidence that the survival and integrity of ESP is no more at hazard than other programs of the UH.. If changes in the Program pursuant to the recommendations of the faculty review committees are to continue, and a really first-rate program developed here (which both the Program staff and students truly desire), then the Program must be assured that it not only can survive, but may thrive, as a part of our academic enterprise. Without the perception by ESP staff, students, and community-support groups that the UH administration intends aloha toward, not destruction of, the Program, changes are difficult to contemplate.

1. An End to Recriminations.

It was the view of the faculty review committees that ESP has a valuable contribution to make to our community. Success in this depends, in part, upon the determination of the staff, students, and community-support groups of the Program to take concrete steps toward the creation of a quality program. But it also depends upon the sympathetic support of the UH faculty and administration and the determination to overcome a history of often rancorous relationships. ESAC believes that the Program has gone a considerable way toward advancing the goal of academic excellence; ESAC has less confidence that the UH administration has gone as far.

We look forward to discussing the entire matter with you.

Ethnic Studies Advisory Committee

James Dator, Prof., Political Science/PCC
Michael Forman, Assoc. Prof., Linguistics/SEC
Jay Gurian, Assoc. Prof., American Studies/MSen.
Kiyoshi Ikeda, Prof., Sociology/CSen.
Gary Okuda, ASUH Representative Wi
Wilhelm G. Solheim II, Prof., Anthropology
Burton Stein, Prof., History

cc: Dean David E. Contois Dr. ~~Miriam Sharma~~
Dr. Miriam Sharma